

Commissioner Karen Lee



Karen Lee was appointed as the 22nd Commissioner of the Employment Security Department in March 2005. Before joining the agency, Lee was director of gas operations for Puget Sound Energy, where she had held various positions since 1997. Prior to that, she was an associate attorney with Preston, Gates & Ellis in Seattle. Lee is a graduate of the West Point military academy and the University of Washington law school. She was born in October 1964.

Deputy Commissioner Paul Trause



Paul Trause returned to the Employment Security Department to assume his current post in March 2005. Before his return, Trause served as director of the Department of Labor & Industries. Prior to that appointment, he was deputy commissioner of Employment Security Department under two previous commissioners. He also has held numerous positions in state, local, and federal government. Trause holds an undergraduate degree and a law degree from Cornell University. He was born in August 1948.